

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BELGRA 00964 170855Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 161203Z FEB 77 CORRECTED COPY FOR TEXT
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9605
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

S E C R E T BELGRADE 964

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y //PAR TWO (2)///

FOR ASST SECRETARY HARTMAN FROM YORK

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG TECH PFOR YO US
SUBJ: KRSKO NUCLEAR LICENSE

REF: ZAGREB 120

1. I WISH TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION MY PROFOUND CONCERN
THAT UNLESS WE MOVE URGENTLY TO RESOLVE KRSKO LICENSING
QUESTION -- IN MY JUDGEMENT THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE IN
OUR RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVS TODAY -- THERE WILL BE SERIOUS
CONSEQUENCES FOR BOTH OUR LONG-TERM INTERESTS IN THIS
COUNTRY AND IRONICALLY FOR OUR MULTILATERAL NON-PROLIFERATION
OBJECTIVES AS WELL. WE HAVE SET FORTH OUR DETAILED
THINKING IN BELGRADE 7348 WHICH I URGE YOU TO ENCOURAGE
NYE, GELB AND OTHERS TO READ.

2. IN ADDITION I WAS STRUCK, IN RE-READING REPORT OF
APPROACH BY SLOVENIAN PRESIDENT (ZAGREB 120),
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BY HIS HEAVY EMPHASIS ON POLITICAL GROUNDS FOR
DECISION TO GIVE US KRSKO CONTRACT. TO BE SURE,
THIS MAY BE SOMEWHAT EXAGGERATED. FACT THAT WESTINGHOUSE
OFFERED TECHNICALLY ADVANCED AND SUITABLE PLANT, TESTED
AND PROVED BY EXPERIENCE, PLUS FAVORABLE FINANCING
PACKAGE WERE NO DOUBT IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN FINAL
DECISION. NONETHELESS MARINC'S BASIC POINT, THAT THERE

WAS POLITICAL CONTENT IN DECISION MAKING, SEEMS TO ME
WELL TAKEN.

3. THIS IS ALL THE MORE REASON FOR URGENT ACTION ON
LICENSING NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT FOR PLANT. FURTHER DELAY
WORKS AGAINST OUR INTEREST IN DEMONSTRATING TO GOY
RELIABILITY OF US GOVERNMENT AND OUR WILLINGNESS TO
KEEP OUR WORD. GIVEN HISTORY OF PROJECT AND STRONG US
GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO IT, YUGOSLAVS WOULD HAVE EVERY
REASON TO GENERALIZE FROM THEIR KRSKO EXPERIENCE, INTO
OTHER AREAS OF OUR RELATIONS. IN A FUTURE CRISIS,
OUR CREDIBILITY WITH GOY COULD BE KEY TO THEIR BEHAVIOR.
AND, JUST BECAUSE I SUPPORT OUR OVERALL NON-PROLIFERATION
POLICY, I BELIEVE IT IS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE FOR US TO TRY
TO APPLY IT SO RIGIDLY AND MECHANICALLY IN CASE OF KRSKO;
THAT WE DESTROY THE CHANCE KRSKO OFFERS TO GAIN YUGOSLAV
SUPPORT FOR OUR WIDER NON-PROLIFERATION APPROACH.

3. I WOULD URGE YOUR PERSONAL INTERVENTION TO TRY TO
SHAKE LICENSE LOOSE. IF LICENSE NOT FORTHCOMING
SOON, I FORESEE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR US INTERESTS
HERE, RANGING FROM POLITICAL TO COMMERCIAL, AND IN
OUR EFFORT TO GAIN NON-ALIGNED SUPPORT FOR OUR
NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES IN LEAD-UP TO YUGOSLAV-
SPONSORED SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT NEXT YEAR.
YORK

SECRET

NNN

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